BENGALURU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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Why despite set accessibility standards urban housing is inaccessible to persons with disabilities

THIS HOUSE, NOT A HOME

Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A disabled woman took to platform X (formerly Twitter) to highlight the lack of inclusive housing in the city to ensure a smooth lifestyle for disabled persons.

Disability activists BM spoke to said while there are laws that mandate inclusivity, lack of checks by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has led to the dire situation.

Mrunmaiy, a wheelchair user, explained the ordeal she went through while looking for a new residence. "It's alarming to know that many brokers and homeowners think that a couple of steps can be passed off as accessible. My motorised wheelchair weighs 130 kg; I cannot be lifted along with it," she explained while adding that in some apartments, the lift

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

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SILENT HEROES

Waste pickers help reduce 1,743 tonnes of CO_2 emissions

PAGE 6

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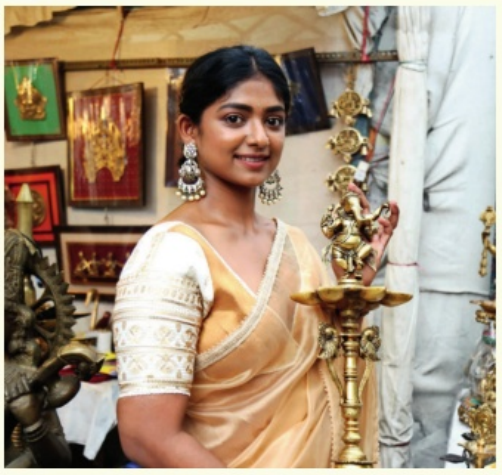
3 THINGS TO DO



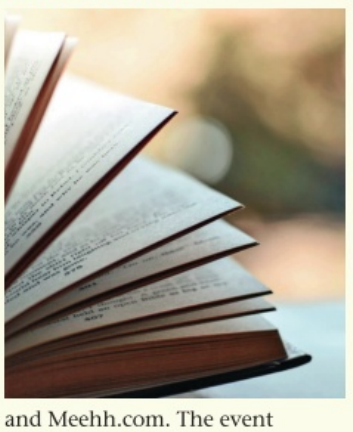
01 Traditional vibes

Grab the chance to visit the Bengaluru Utsav Festival, which is a visual treat festival and an exhibition-cum-sale of artefacts and decorative household items. You can explore a variety of items made by native and rural artisans. The festival is an opportunity to take pride in age-old Indian tradition and heritage. **Where: Chitrakala Parishat; When: until November 5**

02 Choose art

The Grand Rajasthan Exhibition is all set to bring together rural weavers from various parts of the nation. The exhibition features a vast collection of handlooms, dress materials, and sarees. You can also check out jewellery, textiles, handmade paper, gemstones, paintings, leathercrafts, wood items, and more. **Where: Sri Hari Kalyana Mantapa 30th Main, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Banashankari; When: until November 12; 10:30 am to 8 pm**

03 Book collection



Here's some good news for bibliophiles, as 'The Ultimate Books and Stationery Fair' has started in the city. The fair is presented by Arc Stationaries in collaboration with Book Tale and Meehh.com. The event promises to be a haven for book enthusiasts, stationary aficionados, and anyone seeking top-notch printing solutions. **Where: Kalyani Kala Mandira, Doraisanipalya, 1/1, Bannerghatta Main Rd, opp. IIM, Panduranga Nagar; When: until November 5; 10 am–10 pm**

In the era of choice: Reshaping birth control

Over 200 people actively adopt modern contraceptive methods introduced by state; docs point out 'subdermal contraceptive' is long-acting reversible method effective for three years

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Experts said that the acceptance of modern contraceptive has been steadily increasing

In October, the Department of Health and Family Welfare, along with Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, officially introduced new contraceptive methods to enhance the state's family planning programme. Although the official launch occurred in October, a pilot project had already commenced in August at city government hospitals. During this pilot project, a significant number of individuals showed interest in adopting these modern contraceptive methods, with over 200 people actively seeking them.

The new contraceptives for women are subdermal contraceptives and subcutaneous injectable contraceptives. The subdermal implant was initiated in Bengaluru and Bidar. In Bengaluru, it is being given in two hospitals: KC General Hospital and Vanivilas Hospital, and at Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences in Bidar. For the subcutaneous injection, the pilot project was implemented in Yadgir and Mysuru.

When BM spoke to the health professionals at the Vanivilas and KC General hospitals, the doctors pointed out that that pilot project has been doing very well and people are coming forward to take the subdermal contraceptive method. The subdermal contraceptive method is said to be a long-acting reversible contraceptive method effective for three years and is said to be highly effective, convenient, easy to use, and suitable for all.

Dr Indira Kabade, Medical Superintendent, KC General Hospital, pointed out that they have so far done 100 subdermal implants at their hospital.

"The subdermal implant is a slender 4-5 cm rod that is inserted into the left upper arm, offering effective contraception for a duration of 3 years. This procedure can be performed by trained gynaecologists in an outpatient setting, making it a convenient choice. We initiated a pilot programme on August 15, and the response has been promising. We advocate for a recommended gap of approximately 3 years between childbirths to ensure the well-being of both mother and child," she said.

The hospital has eight gynaecologists trained to perform the subdermal implant procedure, and the aim is to prevent unwanted pregnancies and reduce the need for abortions, promoting safety and family planning for every woman, she added.

Dr Anitha GS, Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynaecology (OBG), Vanivilas Hospital, said, "We have received a very positive response at Vanivilas, with over 100 cases showing a high level of acceptance for the implanon (subdermal implant). This method of contraception is gaining popularity due to its convenience; once inserted, it can be forgotten for three years. Unlike previous experiences where intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD) patients often complained of discomfort, pain in the uterus, or increased vaginal discharge, this method addresses those concerns while providing effective contraception."

Speaking about how the hospital has been raising awareness about newer contraceptives, Dr Anitha said, "The acceptance has been steadily increasing, and we integrate contraceptive counselling into the antenatal period. We continue this education during labour and even after delivery, providing women the option to have the device inserted immediately if they choose. We counsel them about the benefits, and despite many being from rural areas, they are accepting of it. The implanon can be done just after their delivery as well."

According to the statistics from the Health and Family Welfare Department, about 47.7% of births in India are poorly spaced, and in Karnataka, 56.2% of births are poorly spaced, impacting maternal and infant morbidity; hence, ensuring healthy birth spacing remains a priority.

VK marks silver jubilee with celebrations today

Vijay Karnataka, a sister concern of Bangalore Mirror, is celebrating the silver jubilee of its launch on Saturday. Recognised for its innovative writing style and holding the highest readership in Karnataka, Vijay Karnataka is organising the silver jubilee programme at the Jnana Jyothi auditoium.

Sandalwood actor Dhruva Sarja

The programme will kick off at 11 am with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former CM BS Yediyurappa, noted writer and researcher Dr Hamp Nagarajaiah, MLC TA Sharavana, and as the chief guests. Following this, there will be a felicitation of unsung achievers (VK Heroes).

Between 2 pm and 3 pm, international magician Kudroli Ganesh will present a magic show. From 3:30 pm to 4 pm, there will be a 'talking doll' programme by the famous ventriloquist Indushree, and between 4 pm and 5 pm, the audience can enjoy Yakshagana by Ravichandra Kannadikatte on the topic Sudarshana Vijaya.

The valedictory programme is scheduled between 5 pm and 6:30 pm, with Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, Spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar, and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy as chief guests.

The evening session will be dedicated to music, with Naveen Sajju and Indu Nagaraj performing between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm.

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Original sin

Why do we have the most inept world leaders in the face of apocalyptic doom looming over the future of humanity? This needs serious introspection in our flailing democratic discourse.

No politician is keen to address the gravest of concerns at hand but seemingly all eager to augment them spouting almost inhumane rhetoric.

Preventable acts of savagery, of which the most recent, the Israel-Palestine conflict and its unjustified aftermath, mass shootings, a refugee crisis fuelled by the absurd position of the west, especially of the British, bleak economic outlook spilling over to the global south, already frazzled by tech's bizarre and unregulated trajectory — all of this make it tough to tackle the climate emergency.

The most affected by crises are outside the purview of the most insulated elite and rich. And our politicians and the big tech complex do not care. But care they must sooner - the scale is unfathomable even from the vain vantage point of technocrats in the global kleptocracy busy fondling big tech toys.

A report said '3 billion people may be pushed outside of earth's liveable regions by the year 2100, encountering severe heat, limited food supply and high mortality.' Another said the physiological mechanism of sweating and body temperature regulation may not suffice as global heating continues.

Amid talk of how the sitting Israeli prime minister could further jeopardise the brewing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we are told to condemn the few sane voices like that of the United Nations secretary general's. This new found toeing of the line, even the liberals and woke are eager to, is absurd.

There appears to be a lack of originality in statesmanship the world over. Instead drone-like agents resembling that of a dark lord's in some dystopian TV series keep swinging the wrecking ball.

That the human collective does not lose its marbles when crises mount and comes up with original resolutions are paramount now. Yes, we need original ideas. Therein lies the problem. The big tech complex is averse to original ideas. It wants to rehash humanity's intellectual capital - that too only whatever that's been digitised until now - and call it original or generative.

Some are so disillusioned that they think any original idea has to come out of tech - move over artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, scientists, teachers, books, philosophers, doctors or who/what have you - or is it move over humanity, the discourse makes you wonder.

What constitutes our creative capital then? Ages of profound human thought perhaps.

Now, 'naturally', the contextual meaning of what is natural or

original, as it were, is challenged by 20-odd years of data gathered by so-called artificial intelligence. An original idea unhindered by tech seems impossible to come by even as so-called AI steals original thoughts of noted authors, artists and so forth to create the aforementioned generative stuff. Deepfakes too are such generative gobbledygook you see.

As data sets, terminology and sociopolitical posturing around tech are tweaked so swiftly to suit emerging scenarios, one thing is definitive: culture has come to a standstill in the world. Socioculturral capital is floundering when it is time to tackle such a massive catastrophe threatening to annihilate us as a species as the climate crisis.

Forests in the tropics are destroyed just as the southern ocean warms and alters climate alongside permanently obliterating the lives of fauna, while changing the ocean chemistry in the south pole.

On the other hand, tipping points are mounting: In certain geographies such as in the US, home insurance is unavailable or unaffordable in the unpredictability of extreme weather. Science warns of groundwater aquifers drying up forever, in India too. Unprecedented melting of mountain glaciers threatens water security as space debris meddle with the functioning of weather-predicting satellites, reports suggest.

Climate tipping points such as the collapse of the Amazon rainforest and shutdown of a key Atlantic Ocean current pose a grave existential threat even as 2023 breaks all heat records.

As a summit is to get underway in the United Kingdom on AI safety, with 'godfathers of AI', tech firms, politicians, academics and other prominent figures in attendance, calls to rein in ambitious AI before these run roughshod on societal checks and balances were made by tech gurus.

Sadly no such camaraderie to radically alter/stop the way the rich and rich corporations plunder the planet. A definitive case in point is the grandstanding of big oil around Cop28 where public protests shall turn caricatures in a traditionally undemocratic space.

News however is headlines such as 'A day in the life of AI' and so on, not how inaccessible tech is for the majority of humans inhabiting conflict zones across the world, or caught up in the frontlines of the climate emergency, or why they should be the sole sufferers in the fallout of the excesses of the global rich.

Number of voters in B'luru goes up

Over 5 lakh voters added in span of 10 months

File photo of citizens turning out to cast their votes for the assembly election

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Even though Bengaluru's voter turnout has been consistently low in the recent elections, the number of voters has witnessed a spike. In January this year, the city had 92,09,917 voters, which has now risen to 97,90,499. Election Commission officials say that the numbers are dynamic and keep changing and the numbers may go up further in the upcoming revision.

Interestingly, 34,055 voters were added in the BBMP North segment, while there was a close contest between the Bengaluru Central and South in adding voters. Despite best efforts, the constituencies in the Bengaluru Central parliamentary segment (28,559) added just one more than the Bengaluru South (28,558). Bengaluru South continues to be the largest electoral constituency in the State with 7,06,207 voters, followed by Mahadevapura 6,18,938. The lowest electorates are in Shivajinagar with just 1,96,055 voters. Election wing's special commissioner R Ramachandran said, "Due to increase in electorates, there is a gradual increase in polling booths as well. Earlier, there were 8,615 polling booths in the city and it has now gone up to 8,982."

Catch them young

Meanwhile, the EC has decided to rope in special teams to enroll more young voters. Ramachandran said, "We have asked the district nodal officers to take up special measures to enroll young voters. For this purpose, the officers have been told to reach out to nearby colleges to enroll young voters. Besides this, the forms are available online for the tech savvy crowd to download and enroll. We are trying our best to get these young voters on board for electoral rolls."

EC officials say that one of the areas of concern for them is apathy among the young. An official said, "Our focus has been to connect to the youth. Those who are in the age group of 17 years can file their applications well in advance and when these applicants turn 18 years old on first of January, April, July and October, they will be eligible to vote for the Karnataka elections. However, the cause of concern is that a section of youths are not voting with enthusiasm. We had a session in the Indian Institute of Science recently to understand the interest of the youths. We have been doing numerous programmes like hackathons to engage professionals and the knowledge industry."

> **We have asked the district nodal officers to take up special measures to enroll young voters**
> –R Ramachandra, Spl commissioner

Press delete

Even while there have been additions in the voters' list, there have been deletions too. Around 86,062 names have been deleted from the list. Ramachandran added, "If voters' names are repeated, we delete them. The reasons for deletions include either death of a voter, shifting of residence, repetitions or if anyone is disqualified. The Election Commission of India keeps a tab on repetitions and these will be removed from the voter's list after following due process."

He said that the latest draft list was published on October 27. Usually, during voting, many complain that their names are missing. Hence, the voters have been asked to verify their names at the electoral enrolling officers in the BBMP. The draft list is also published in www.ceokarnataka.kar.nic.in and www.bbmp.gov.in website. Alternatively, there is a provision to check the voters list via mobile app (voter helpline app) or the website-Voters.eci.gov.in.

Grand orchid show today

Bengaluru is hosting a two-day Orchid Show starting Saturday. The organisers claim that Orchids hold the top position among flowering plants. The flowers stand out with their colours, shapes, sizes, and mimicry. They are considered 'jewels' in floriculture. Orchids are known for their beauty, commercial value, and ecological importance. They play a crucial role in the ecosystem, indicating its health. However, habitat loss due to human activity and orchid overexploitation threaten many species. Creating awareness about conserving species and their habitats is crucial, said an organiser of the event from the Orchid Society of Karnataka (TOSKAR) at St. Joseph University, Langford Road.

Date 'error' keeps patient stuck in hospital

Insurance company refuses to pay as 'hospital staff mistakenly puts wrong date in claim form'

KAUSHIK JN

Aravind was admitted to the hospital by the traffic police

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BV Aravind, a cargo vehicle driver, underwent surgery at the People Tree Hospital situated at Goraguntepalya Junction on Tumkur Road on October 20. HE is healthy now and was supposed to be discharged on October 21, but is instead stuck at the hospital because of a tussle between the hospital and the insurance company.

Aravind met with a road accident at 8 am on October 20, and the traffic police admitted him to People Tree Hospital. The hospital staff informed Aravind's wife Veena about the accident at 11 am on the same day. The doctors told Veena that her husband had to undergo surgery for a fractured mandible. They asked her to sign a form to claim insurance. Aravind has been working with a company called Fine Mobility and is covered by group insurance provided by them.

The hospital bill was Rs 1.70 lakh, and the hospital sent the bill to the insurance company for reimbursement. But, the insurance company rejected the claim, stating that the date mentioned on the form is wrong. The hospital staff had filled out the form manually, stating the date of admission as August 20 instead of October 20. The insurance company has questioned why the hospital is claiming reimbursement two months after the patient underwent surgery.

According to reliable sources, the insurance company also suspects that the patient has indulged in fraudulent methods to claim the insurance amount. The company has questioned the hospital staff for sending the wrong date of the surgery.

Aravind's family meanwhile said the hospital staff has committed a mistake while filling out the claim form. It is believed that the hospital management sent a revised claim form to the insurance company, but the insists of doing an inspection to verify the treatment given to the patient.

> **"The hospital management is insisting that I pay cash and go home, but I do not have Rs 1.70 lakh to pay to the hospital. Mistake was committed by the hospital staff** –Aravind

When contacted, Veena claimed that she had not told the hospital management that she would pay cash if the insurance claim was rejected.

Aravind told Bangalore Mirror over the phone from the hospital that he had made it clear to the hospital management that he would undergo surgery if the cost was covered under the group insurance provided by Fine Mobility. "The hospital management is insisting that I pay cash and go home, but I do not have Rs 1.70 lakh to pay to the hospital. It was the hospital staff who committed the mistake. Why should I be punished for their mistake? The hospital management must allow me to go home," said Aravind.

Meanwhile, Govindaraju, the billing manager at People Tree Hospital, said that the insurance claim got rejected due to the waiting period for the insurance cover. "We have tried our level best to convince the insurance company, but in vain. Aravind's family has to pay the cash," he said.

However, Fine Mobility Cluster Manager Kumaresh P said that it was the hospital that committed the blunder by filling the wrong date in the insurance. "There is no waiting period for our employees to undergo surgery or to have treatment. We have provided all the documents to the hospital. We did everything that we were supposed to do," he said.

Drunk ruckus: Prasad Biddappa's son detained

Fashion designer and choreographer Prasad Biddappa's son, Adam Bidappa, has been booked for drunk driving and misbehaving with Karnataka Police.

Adam was detained and later released on station bail. On Wednesday, Adam Bidappa was driving rashly in an inebriated state. When a person identified as Rahul honked, Adam got enraged, blocked the road, and created a ruckus near Yelahanka Wheel Factory. When police were called to the spot, Adam misbehaved with them as well, DCP South East Laxmi Prasad said. Adam threatened the cops that he has connections with powerful people. –IANS

Tiger claw locket puts forest official in dock

The Karnataka Forest Department on Friday suspended the Deputy Range Forest Officer (DRFO) of Kalasa in Chikkamagaluru district and arrested him for allegedly possessing a tiger claw pendant, officials said.

The action was taken following an official complaint lodged by activists Supreeth and Abdul Khader against Darshan Kumar, the DRFO, after a purported photo of him wearing a tiger claw pendant surfaced on social media platforms. Later, he deleted those photos. "A case has been registered against him," a senior forest official told PTI. –PTI

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Waste pickers: Silent heroes of sustainability

Endeavours of waste pickers contribute to reduction of up to 1,743 tonnes of CO_2 emissions per year, says study

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A study conducted by Hasiru Dala revealed that waste pickers' efforts reduced CO_2 emission, equivalent to removing 388 passenger cars from the road each year

A study conducted by Hasiru Dala (HD) in Bengaluru aimed to assess the role of Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) in mitigating Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The year-long study, covering seven wards in Jaynagar, revealed that waste pickers' efforts saved 1,743 tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually, equivalent to removing 388 passenger cars from the road each year.

Jayanagar division, comprising seven wards: Byrasandra, Pattabhiram Nagar, Jayanagar East, Gurappanpalya, Shakambari Nagar, Saraki, and JP Nagar, was selected as the site of the study. The study was started last year in January and completed in December.

For the study, Hasiru Dala used the WIEGO tool, GHG Emissions Calculator 2.0. A methodology and calculator tool enabling the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions that waste picker groups prevent were used. The methodology was developed by Green Partners environmental consulting, and tested by organisational members of the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers.

For the study, the researchers from Hasiru Dala identified the landfill type and then calculated the avoided emissions from the disposal sites. Thereafter, they calculated the avoided emissions due to substitution of raw materials through recycling and the contributed emissions from transportation practices of DWCC in collecting dry waste. Lastly, the avoided emissions due to less energy-intensive sorting or preprocessing were calculated.

> **"The localised waste management system, DWCC acts as a climate mitigation infrastructure. Waste pickers are the pillars of this infrastructure** – Roy Anto, researcher at Hasiru Dala

The findings showcased that, due to efforts by the waste picker community, the DWCC saved emissions in three main ways: disposal site diversion, substitution of virgin raw materials through recycling, and a less energy-intensive recycling value chain. The total contribution of the seven waste picker-run dry waste collection centres to GHG mitigation is 1,743 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year. Roy Anto, researcher at Hasiru Dala, said, "In Bengaluru, the localised waste management system, which is the dry waste collection centre (DWCC), acts as a climate mitigation infrastructure.

Waste pickers are the pillars of this infrastructure and play a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting waste from landfills, recycling, and promoting a circular economy. We need to have more DWCCs across the city."

Additionally, the study also showcased that in JP Nagar Ward (ward 177), the contribution of textile recycling to GHG mitigation is 17.11 tonnes CO2 equivalent per year. The contribution of lane composters to GHG mitigation is 3.03 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year.

Furthermore, the study stated that the way forward is to focus on zero-waste implementation, which is key to climate adaptation. Zero Waste implementation can have huge potential in both diverting waste from landfills and preventing greenhouse gas emissions.

Putting waste pickers at the centre of the solution allows for a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the waste management sector by preventing and reducing waste from ending up in landfills.

How accessible is urban housing for disabled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was too small to accommodate her as well as her wheelchair along with a caretaker. Further, she noted that in many Indian apartments, the door of the bathroom is too narrow.

"No surprises, that being a quadriplegic, I take my bath in a wheelchair. Hence, the door of the bathroom has to be at least 25 inches wide for me to get inside along with my shower-wheelchair," she said.

"My choice of apartments is now limited to big gated communities that charge a premium rent," she concluded, highlighting the need for inclusivity in infrastructure.

Viswesh Shekar, a disability rights activist, told Bangalore Mirror that there are laws in place to ensure that infrastructure is inclusive. "In terms of housing, the occupancy and clearance certificate required for buildings to operate cannot be provided by authorities if it does not meet the accessibility standards," he explained.

A 2022 report by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy titled 'Beyond Reasonable Accommodation: Making Karnataka's Cities Accessible by Design to Persons with Disabilities' pointed out that while the municipal legal framework has set the accessibility standards to be followed in public buildings along with inspection requirements, in reality, these are not strictly enforced, and such buildings continue to remain inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

"Furthermore, while by-laws under the KMC Act, KM Act and BBMP Act have been issued by the state government, they have not been updated to reflect the recent changes in accessibility standards, rendering the regulations outdated in the face of changing standards and the latest research," the report said.

It noted that while there is a provision for empanelment of professionals for inspecting and certifying that a building has complied with all the requirements stipulated in the by-laws, it does not include persons with disabilities. The key features for accessibility in a housing context include access to parking, elevators, staircases, shared spaces, entrances and other functional aspects.

Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India – 2021, issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has set standards for public buildings to follow. For example, it notes that for wheelchair users, the entrance into residential buildings should have a platform of at least 1,500 mm ×1,500 mm. Along with this, it also says that a wheelchair turning diameter of at least 1,500 mm should be provided between the counter and the opposite walls in kitchens.

"Even when there are ramps and other arrangements, they are made only to get by these mandates and are not scientifically designed. At best, they can be used to move cylinders and two-wheelers but cannot be used to move wheelchairs," he said.

Lack of scrutiny by urban local bodies has led to ineffective implementation of the standard, causing the many issues that disabled people have to face. "To make a building accessible, it does not cost much. It will require an initial investment, but in the long run, it tapers down as the infrastructure will attract the untapped disability market," Viswesh added. According to the 2011 census, India has approximately 21 million people with disabilities, out of which nearly 13.24 lakh are from Karnataka.

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Footpath chaos

Benniganahalli

The footpath near Benniganahalli FOB (Foot Over Bridge) is in a state of disrepair, with vendors occupying spaces designated for BMTC bus passengers, causing the bus stop to be inaccessible.

Parked obstruction

Magadi Road

A vehicle has been parked on Magadi Road 2nd Cross, 15th Main, opposite Sureka School, for a month, causing inconvenience to the public and hindering BBMP street cleaners.

Roadblock dangers

JP Nagar

Vehicles left unattended for months near 18th B Main Road, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase. With unknown owners, these parked vehicles pose obstacles to making right turns, resulting in accidents.

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Suburban trains to boost realty in Nelamangala-Hesaraghatta area

Things falling on track for home-buyers

While the Metro aids realty sector growth, all eyes are on the Bengaluru suburban rail project. Realtors believe the suburban railway line will provide an alternative link to areas where the Metro does not connect. The project is expected to make travel easier, and people would prefer to buy plots near the suburban railway lines. Now the happy news is that there is good progress on this front, as the fourth pile of the Pier 18 of corridor two was bored on Friday. The track-doubling project between Baiyappanahalli to Hosur is progressing, with construction work picking up between Maranayakanahlli to Hosur.

Realtor Raju K said, "Undoubtedly, there is a great demand for Metro. However, Metro cannot reach all the places of the city. It is here the suburban trains will play a very important role. For example, Hesaraghatta Road is now transforming into a real estate hub with many affordable plots being offered.

There is no plan to bring Metro trains to Hesaraghatta Road. However, the suburban train from Chikkabanavara will definitely be a big boost. Even those who want to buy property around Hesaraghatta can travel to Chikkabanavara and from there one can take a train. So, many people are now buying sites for this reason." Kiran Reddy, another realtor, added, "Suburban trains always play a key role. In cities like Mumbai and Chennai, suburban trains are the lifelines of the city.

Even a city like Hyderabad added the MMTS network to use the existing railway network. It was only Bengaluru that was lagging behind among the major cities. Now, we are happy that the suburban railway line work is on and in years to come, it is set to make the travel experience better. For buying property, buyers look at major infrastructure projects, and Hesaraghatta road boasts of all the major infrastructure projects.

From buses to Metro trains and from suburban trains to airport connectivity, Hesaraghatta road is blessed with numerous projects that will help the residents to move around the City swiftly."

Interestingly, the rail network has played a very important role in the growth of Hesaraghatta Road. The Hesaraghatta Road runs somewhat parallel to the Bengaluru-Tumakuru railway line. While the Bengaluru-Tumakuru highway passes from Yeshwanthpur-Dasarahalli-Nelamangala-Dabaspet-Tumakuru, the railway line takes a route from Yeshwanthpur-Chikkabanavara-Soladevanahalli-Railway Gollahalli-Dobbspet. As a result, many people have been using trains to travel in and around Bengaluru and other places.

Now, citizens feel that once the suburban network kicks off, many of the railway stations too will get busy, and people would prefer to stay in and around railway stations, as traveling by trains will be far easier than using personal vehicles.

Properties around Nelamangala and Hesaraghatta Road are not just known for affordable properties but also offer excellent basic amenities, including good road connectivity, water, and electricity connection. Hesaraghatta road is well connected with Nelamangala, Yelahanka, Bengaluru city as well as Doddaballapur. Hence, many prefer to buy properties here as it will help people to reach any of the destinations.

The Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project is planned at a completion cost of Rs 15,767 crore. It is to be implemented via the joint venture company K-RIDE. Under the project, a total rail route of 148.17 km will be constructed in four sub-urban rail corridors; 41.4 km of Bengaluru-Devanahalli; 25.01 km of Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara; 35.52 km of Kengeri-Bengaluru Cantonment and 46.24 km of Heelalige-Rajanukunte sectors.

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Why more Bengalureans are plotting their own dream home story

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The real estate industry experienced a significant upswing post the pandemic and subsequent return to normalcy. A notable trend among real estate buyers is the remarkable increase in land transactions this year as compared to the last year.

According to the website NoBroker, there has been a 12-14% growth of land transactions in the city in 2023 YTD (Year to Date) as compared to 2022 YTD. The estimate is about 8-10,000 land transactions in the city this year. The main reason for growth is land transactions is observed due to the preference as many have started preferring to build their own homes over buying flats. Looking at the increasing demand, it is said that many reputed developers have started launching plotted projects which further fuelled the land transaction.

The increase in land transactions in the city, particularly in North Bengaluru, is also due to long-term appreciation potential of plots or land due to population and urbanisation growth, flexibility in use, tax benefits, low maintenance and no depreciation.

Jajit Menon, Director - Sales, Marketing, CRM & Product, Shriram Properties Ltd, told BM, "There are several reasons why the area is favourable, one being connectivity, with Kempegowda International Airport on NH44, coupled with the anticipation of an upcoming metro line directed towards the airport. Furthermore, the influx of commercial developments has not only capitalised on this strategic location but has also attracted a pool of skilled professionals to the vicinity. The Peripheral Ring Road has solidified the link to a key IT hub, Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) is in progress and enhanced metro blue line connectivity is expected in two-three years and suburban rail corridors are expected to be completed by 2028."

RG Anil, Managing Director, Concorde, said that in North Bengaluru, micro-markets like Devanahalli, Hebbal, Doddaballapur, Thanisandra, Hennur, and Yelahanka are key areas with growth potential. Meanwhile, East Bengaluru remains attractive, with Whitefield, KR Puram, and Sarjapur as popular choices.

Furthermore, Malur and Narsapura are rising stars due to ongoing infrastructure development and their strategic links to industrial hubs and the Bangalore Chennai expressway. "These regions offer promising investment opportunities for those looking to invest in plots in the city.

Enhanced connectivity to different parts of the city and growing demand for commercial and residential spaces have been key drivers of land transactions. Improved infrastructure and accessibility make areas more appealing for investment," he said.

PRICES OF PLOTS BASED ON RECENT TRANSACTIONS
(Source: NoBroker)

- Kengeri: Rs. 4,000-7,000 per sq ft
- Akshayanagar: Rs. 3,500-8,000 per sq ft
- Kasturi Nagar: Rs 7,000-15,000 per sq ft
- Anekal: Rs 1,500-4,000 per sq ft
- Nelamangala: Rs 1,500-4,000 per sq ft

Upcoming residential localities

Areas like Kengeri, Kasturi Nagar, Anekal and Nelamangala are some of the areas that are being developed as upcoming residential localities and are observed to be favourable choices for plot investments.

Amit Agarwal, CEO & Co-founder, NoBroker.com said, "These areas are located on the outskirts of Bengaluru making them comparatively affordable. Promising connectivity plans of these areas to other parts of the city. Kengeri located on Mysuru Road in the western part of the city is now connected to IT hub Whitefield in the eastern part of Bengaluru through Metro Purple Line.

To further increase the connectivity, there are plans in place to connect the Kengeri Railway station to other parts through the sub-urban network. The upcoming Metro Pink line will connect Akshayanagar to the North of Bengaluru. The phase of the Blue Line that is currently under construction will connect Kasturi Nagar directly to the airport."

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Jumbo barriers: Mind the gaps

Karnataka Forest Dept begins analysis across 51 divisions in state to understand effectiveness of existing structures, plug areas of conflict

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To protect the jumbos and reduce human-elephant conflict in the state, the Karnataka Forest Department has taken up a mammoth task. The department has carried out an elephant barrier analysis across all the 51 divisions in the state. The idea is to analyse effectiveness of existing barriers and pinpoint areas where though territories overlap, there is no mechanism to separate elephants from humans.

"We are looking at existing barriers and places devoid of them across 51 divisions, including territorial and wildlife, to understand need to plug in the gaps," said Saswati Mishra, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, KFD.

The analysis is also looking at existing barricades to understand maintenance requirements.

"Elephant barrier analysis was conducted for Kodagu a few years back and Chamarajnagara Circle with the help of students. The Karnataka Evaluation Authority has made some assessments too. This is the first time the department is carrying out a comprehensive analysis. We have got details and the information will be used to create a five-year plan to bring down elephant-human conflict cases," added Mishra.

File photo of a member of a herd of elephants that created panic on the outskirts of Mysuru

Useful exercise

Wildlife conservationists say barrier assessment is a useful exercise and will save a lot of resources for KFD apart from helping the department focus on hotspots of conflicts. They opine that a scientifically robust barrier efficacy analysis will be useful in comparing historical data and information from future assessments too.

> **"There are nearly 13 structural barriers, but sometimes these have limitations. Analysing efficacy of barriers, correcting these errors are important**
>
> –Avinash Krishnan, A Rocha India

"There are nearly 13 hard or structural barriers by KFD, but sometimes these have limitations. Assessing and analysing the efficacy of barriers and correcting these errors are important. Some site-specific factors need to be considered while conducting the analysis. For instance, in the case of Bannerghatta National Park, we considered variables in terms of breakages, inter-barrier distance, barrier extent, etc. These site-specific nuances should be considered and planned and mapped across the divisions. This will help the department understand where more efforts are required to curtail conflicts. Technical inputs from agencies and scientific groups working in those areas can be used too," said Avinash Krishnan, a wildlife conservationist and director, science, and conservation at A Rocha India.

Experts recommend the department conduct this exercise periodically, especially at the beginning and end of every cropping season.

"Peak harvest season is when there is a surge in conflict cases and flux of elephants outside protected areas. Thus, assessments must be conducted both before and post-cropping season to understand the efficacy. The process should be standardised," said a city-based conservationist.

Elephant's tail cut off: Hunt on for accused

In a shocking incident, miscreants attacked an elephant and severed its tail in Sakrebyle Elephant Camp in Shivamogga district, sources said on Friday.

A hunt for the accused has been launched. The accused had attacked an 18-month pregnant elephant called Bhanumati. After giving her a bath at the Tunga river, the staff had left her to graze on the camp's premises.

The staff noticed blood splattered on the ground and they rushed to the elephant only to see that the tail had been cut off. It is suspected that the accused had hit the elephant with a sharp edged weapon with full force.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Wildlife Division Prasanna Krishna Patagar said that the tail of the elephant was cut by half an inch.

The severed part was stitched back and treatment administered. "Bhanumati is healthy and recovered and there is no problem. I have ordered an inquiry to find out who had done this," he stated.

According to sources, the incident had taken place last week but came to light lately. The Sakrebyle Elephant Camp is a forest camp for captive elephants in Karnataka.

Situated at a distance of 14 km from Shivamogga, it is considered to be the best camp for training elephants in the state.

The camp, maintained by the Karnataka Forest Department, attracts wildlife enthusiasts and tourists alike. It is one of those ecotourism centres in Karnataka that offers general people an opportunity to look at the huge tuskers from close quarters. –IANS

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I, VIJAY KUMAR, S/o Madappa, aged about 49 Years, R/at 41st Main Road, Talluka Bhalki, Tarnalli, Janthi Bidar-585413, have changed my name to VIJAYKUMAR BHALKE vide affidavit dated: 27/10/2023 Before Notary S.R.Paramashivaiah Bangalore.

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Allow expression of solidarity with Palestine, citizens demand

Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru for Justice and Peace, a coalition of organisations and citizens, have written to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Division) urging him to allow them to hold a day-long event at Freedom Park in solidarity with Palestine.

The programme aimed to donate blood as a symbol of solidarity with the Palestinians who have lost their lives. Secondly, to hold a public meeting and protest, calling for the immediate ceasefire and restoration of justice and peace in the region. But, the DCP, in a letter dated October 26, has rejected permission to hold the event on October 28, citing that the matter is an international issue and there is a threat to law and order.

"The reasons provided do not fall within the reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression and the right to peaceable assembly, cannot be limited to being exercised only national matters," the letter said, while adding that any restriction that does not fall within those spelt out in 19(2) is not permissible and would be struck down as being in violation of Article 19(1)(a). It also noted that law and order is not recognised as a reasonable restriction of Article 19(1). "The Supreme Court has held that only when there is a proximate and direct connection between the restriction and public order can it be accepted as a reasonable restriction. In this case, there is no such proximate and direct connection," it said. They have requested the DCP to reconsider and provide permission to hold the programme on October 29.

Police disperse protesters who had gathered on MG Road in support of Palestine recently

Last week, the police denied permission to Left parties wanting to hold a protest on the issue, even in Freedom Park. Police also booked activists for holding a solidarity gathering at MG Road.

The organisation has also written an open letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, demanding that the government uphold the right to protest. "Such actions of the State Government are not only an assault on the fundamental rights of citizens to protest, but also display a cruel indifference to the genocide being carried out by the Israeli government, and is an immoral abuse of power by these offices," the letter said. "While several other states have allowed rallies and protests, why is the Karnataka government deliberately silencing voices of solidarity? " the letter questioned.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

TIME WITH MOM

An elephant and her little ones feeding at the Bandipur Wildlife Sanctuary

The picture was clicked by BM reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

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'Keep the retail space at bay'

Residents of HRBR Layout point out 130 illegal buildings in area; demand cancellation of licences issued to commercial buildings

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Recently, encouraged by BBMP's action against illegal buildings in Whitefield, the residents brought to attention 130 illegal buildings in HRBR Layout. Urging strict action against errant buildings, residents had written to the BBMP Chief Commissioner and Deputy Chief Minister four months ago.

Residential layout crowding with commercial buildings has become an epidemic in Bengaluru. With many operating as residential-commercial buildings, they lack the parking space required for commercial buildings. This further adds to congestion in cities, with vehicles sprawling across the roads.

In a citizen survey, residents of HRBR Layout, 1st Block, identified 130 illegal buildings that are either commercial buildings or apartments that violate zoning regulations.

"We have identified 130 illegal properties in our layout. The HRBR Layout was supposed to be a model layout and a 100 per cent residential layout. But to this, land was allotted at premium charges. As per BDA rules, the house should be built within three years; otherwise, it is reallocated. Even the original sale deed was issued after 10 years of allotment. But now plans have been sanctioned for empty plots. Residential and commercial sites and apartments are being constructed," said Christopher Cruz, a resident.

While apartments should be ideally 5300 sq ft, minimum apartments for less than that are being built. Some of the apartments have more than three floors, and commercial buildings have no parking spaces, he added.

Seeing BBMP's apathy and inaction, residents conducted a survey four months ago and identified 130 such buildings. 400 residents signed and submitted a letter to the BBMP Chief Commissioner and Deputy Chief Minister. "Almost all construction of apartments is illegal. We want the concerned BBMP department to cancel the licences issued to commercial buildings on residential plots. None of the buildings meet the parking space requirement as per Table 23 of the CDP," he explained.

> **None of the buildings meet the parking space requirements**
> – Christopher Cruz, a resident

Residents state that living conditions have deteriorated after the commercialisation of the layout. "We residents choose to live in a livable, safe, and peaceful residential neighbourhood, but now it is rabid with rapid commercial construction and complexes with no regard to BBMP bylaws.

Vehicles of employees and customers are being parked on roads, footpaths, and in front of other residential houses and gates, making it a nuisance to this once peaceful residential model layout. Neither residents nor police can keep tabs as there are so many new faces entering and exiting this area," said residents in a letter.

Residents say that illegal buildings violate zoning regulations

DID YOU KNOW?

Biocon Limited, a biopharmaceutical company founded by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, is headquartered in Bengaluru. The company was founded in 1978 with just Rs 10,000 as the initial capital by the founder. In 1979, it became the first Indian company to export enzymes to the US and Europe. Shaw's efforts in the field of biotechnology have drawn great recognition for the nation. She is the recipient of awards like the Nikkei Asia Prize, the Express Pharmaceutical Leadership Summit Award 2009, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and more.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What are the biggest challenges or issues you think Bengaluru is facing right now?

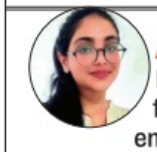
Srilakshmi HS, BM Reader
Bengaluru, being one of the fastest-growing cities in India, faces a major concern about traffic. The unmaintained roads add to the existing traffic problems in the city. In addition to this, overcrowded buses force commuters to use their own vehicles.

Shivaji Rao, BM Reader
I'm troubled by the city's garbage problem. Overflowing landfills, littered streets, and limited recycling options demand urgent attention and community involvement for a cleaner future.

Anirudh P, BM Reader
The Bengaluru we all love is ever-caring and accommodating. But in recent times, due to rapid urbanisation, the growth that is occurring has not been sustainable. In a few years, the city we know will be completely in chaos.

Arundhati P, BM Reader
Traffic jams are the leading issue being faced in Bengaluru right now. It is affecting its citizens on a daily basis. It can be resolved in many ways with sustainable marketing.

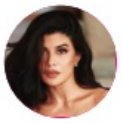
BN Giridhar Rao, BM Reader
Pollution has increased drastically, causing health hazards that need to be addressed immediately. Traffic density has increased, and commuting has slowed down due to traffic jams. We need to raise awareness about the need to use more public, non-polluting transportation.



A Vaishnavi, BM Reader
From its greenery to aspiring for a 'Swachh Bharat,' Bengaluru embodies a blend of contrasts. The city transformation, adorned in neon lights and resonating with music, symbolises the shift from tranquility to revelry.

SPEAK TO US

What do you enjoy most about living in Bengaluru?
If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247



Movie scoop— Jacqueline Fernandez confirms doing a film with Jean-Claude Van Damme, recalls meeting Selena Gomez in Italy. She told Filmfare that it was great to work with such an icon and legend.

Fashion finesse

Kriti Sanon stuns in red-white saree ensemble

Actor Kriti Sanon's fashion game has always been on point. Whatever she wears, she does with grace and refinement. As the 'Ganapath' actor is busy gearing up for her upcoming projects, she was spotted at Mumbai's private airport giving all desi vibes on Friday.

She decided to slay her desi avatar in a stunning red-white saree. Kriti looked gorgeous in a white printed saree that she paired with a red V-neck blouse and matching earrings. She wore subtle makeup, a red round bindi and minimal gold accessories for glam. Her soft, curly hair accentuated her ethnic look as she posed for the paparazzi.

Taking to Instagram story, Kriti posted a video of herself giving a closer look to her fans.

On Thursday, she stole the attention with her stylish presence at the launch of the 100th store of UK clothing brand Marks & Spencer in the country. Kriti was seen donning a beautiful blue ombre outfit, revealing her fashion mantra.

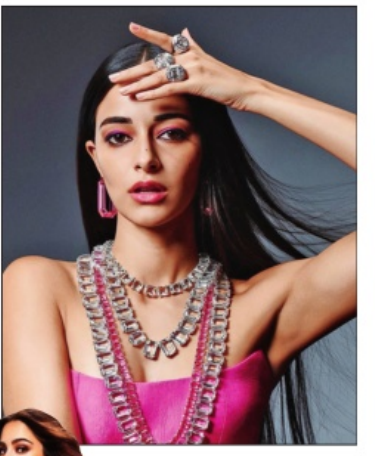
"I think fashion and style are quite personal. I like combining style and comfort in my fashion. I like wearing sleek and contemporary clothes, but at the same time, I want them to be extremely comfortable," she told ANI.

Besides fashion, Kriti also spoke about her first-ever National Award win. On October 17, she was felicitated with the Best Actor Award for her role in the 'Mimi' film at the 69th National Film Awards ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi.

Expressing happiness over her feat, Kriti said, "It is a surreal moment. I think this is every actor's dream. I thought it was a distant dream as I have not even completed 10 years in the industry, but I feel very blessed and grateful for something like this to happen."

Meanwhile, on the work front, she will share screen space with Shahid Kapoor in a romantic film, which will be out in theatres on February 9, 2024. Kriti will also be seen in 'The Crew' alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tabu and Diljit Dosanjh in 'The Crew'. **—ANI**

Gym bond



The new generation of Bollywood actresses, including Janhvi Kapoor, Ananya Panday, and Sara Ali Khan, has consistently defied the stereotype of industry inside fights, promoting a healthy sense of camaraderie and collaboration. Unlike their predecessors, who were often pitted against each other by both the film industry and the media, these Gen Z stars maintain a spirit of friendly competition and support for one another.

In a recent gym video that's gone viral, Ananya Panday and Sara Ali Khan are having a blast during their workout session.

Shared by renowned celebrity fitness trainer Namrata Purohit, the video captures Ananya Panday and Sara Ali Khan, transforming an intense workout into an enjoyable and interactive experience.

Dressed in their gym attire, Ananya and Sara radiate vitality and fitness as they share laughs. Purohit's Instagram post accompanying the video states, "This is just a tiny glimpse of @saraalikhan95 and @ananyapanday's workout! Making it look so easy... having fun while getting fit."

The post emphasises the importance of enjoying every exercise session, showcasing how the actresses bring joy to their fitness routine. Ananya Panday is currently in an exciting phase of her acting career, with several promising projects in her pipeline.

Sara Ali Khan is equally engaged in her acting career, boasting an exciting lineup of projects. **—ETimes**

Gripping narrative

INAMDAR

3.0 RATING ★★★½

- **DIRECTOR** Sandesh Shetty Ajri
- **ACTORS** Pramod Shetty, Ranjan Chatrapati , Sharath Lohitashwa, Sandesh Shetty, MK Mata
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 140 minutes

Director Sandesh Shetty Ajri's 'Inamdar' is the latest addition to Sandalwood's collection of films that shed light on the plight of hapless tribal communities living in the forest. The movie delves into the theme of greedy tribal leaders exploiting innocent tribal people, a narrative that unfolds with a focus on retaining the interest of the audience, especially the mass viewership, throughout its runtime.

The story revolves around Inamdar (MK Mata), a zamindar who contemplates ending his life in front of a colossal Shiva Lingam in the Tapasya forest, fearing that he will not have a successor. Tragedy strikes as his wife gives birth to a son, Veerabahu (Ranjan Chatrapathi), but she succumbs shortly after. Veerabahu portrayed as an embodiment of evil, embarks on a path of debauchery, frequenting brothels and drama companies in pursuit of his desires. His life takes a tumultuous turn when he crosses paths with Silk (Ester Noronha), an item dancer, and falls in love. However, his discovery of her involvement with someone else shatters his world. Too late to amend his ways, Veerabahu is left with regret. "Inamdar" unfolds the gripping tale of Veerabahu and his efforts to protect the innocent tribal people.

The cast delivers commendable performances, with Pramod Shetty stepping into a unique role that showcases his versatility. Ester Noronha, as Silk, captivates with her beauty and dancing skills. Thriller Manju impresses as a stunt master and also plays a police officer tasked with investigating the mysterious killings of his colleagues. Avinash makes a brief but impactful appearance, and Chirashree Anchan's acting is noteworthy.

However, the film's excessive violence and the absence of comedic elements are noticeable drawbacks. A more concise screenplay could have elevated the overall entertainment value.

'Inamdar' offers an engaging cinematic experience for those who appreciate movies cantered on tribal communities and their struggles.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Family drama

TAGARU PALYA

3.5 RATING ★★★½

- **DIRECTOR** Umesh K Krupa
- **ACTORS** Rangayana Raghu, Tara, Nagabhushana, Amrutha Prem, Sharath Lohitashwa
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 130 minutes

The movie kicks off with a sheep caught in the rain and Paandappa, aka Paandu (Rangayana Raghu), yelling at his wife Shantha (Tara) to prepare their daughter Jyothi for a visit to their family Goddess. This journey is part of a vow to secure Jyothi's marriage through a ritual sacrifice. However, Jyothi has other plans, as she is determined to elope rather than marry the software engineer her father has chosen.

As Paandu organises a trip to a nearby forest's Goddess temple with friends and relatives, his orphaned nephew Chikka (Nagabushana) sets up basic amenities, including liquor, near the temple. The more Paandu tries to fulfill his vow by sacrificing the RAM (7-Star Sultan), the more complications arise. Shantha discovers Jyothi's love for Chikka, leading to a tense situation. The priest advises Paandu to invite his estranged elder brother into the mix, sparking a quarrel between the two families.

"Tagaru Palya" explores the consequences of Paandu's vow and the potential union of Jyothi and Chikka.

Dhananjaya, the producer under the Daali Pictures banner, is commended for choosing a script rich in comedy, tradition, culture, and sentiment. Director Umesh K Krupa, in his debut, skillfully manages the movie with limited locations and resources, showcasing his potential as a promising director for future projects.

The film also celebrates the traditions and culture of the people in the Mysore region, featuring a diverse range of characters who provide ample comic relief. Notably, Amrutha Prem's performance stands out, with her endearing portrayal earning accolades. Nagabushana's acting and dialogue delivery receive praise, and Rangayana Raghu and Tara deliver strong performances as the concerned couple. The supporting cast, including Vijanath Biradar, Sharath Lohitashwa, and Chitra Shenoy, adds depth to the narrative. Vasuki Vaibhav's musical score and S K Rao's cinematography contribute to the movie's appeal.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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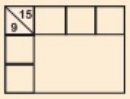
@BangaloreMirror

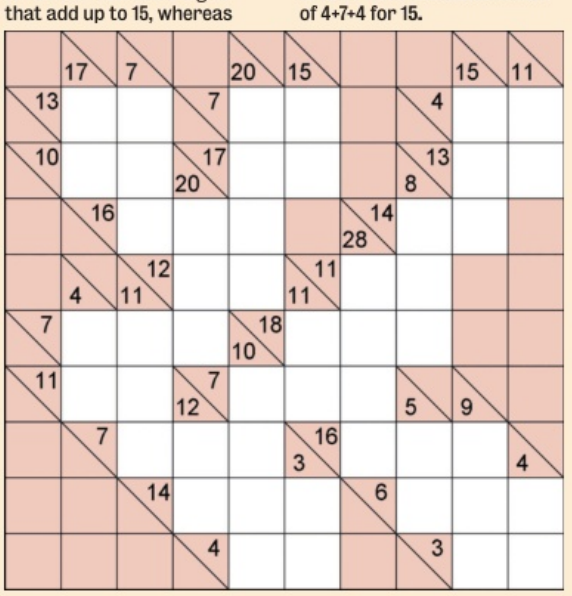
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

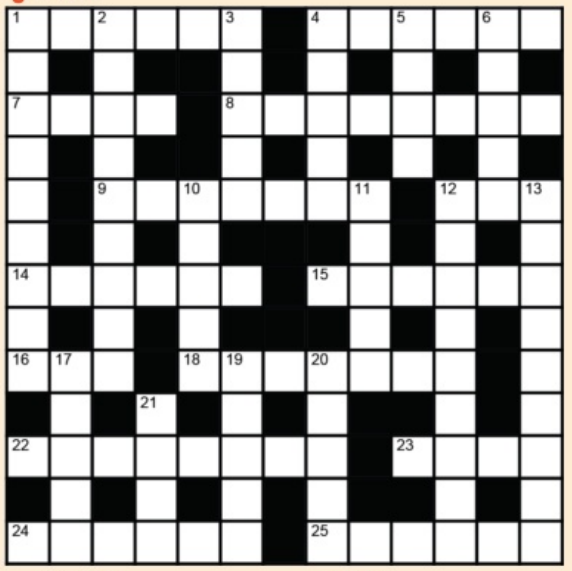


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Addicted (6)
4 Lecture (6)
7 Negative votes (4)
8 Officer in charge of a jungle? (8)
9 Theatre on Varthur Road (7)
12 Steal from (3)
14 Indian ___ Ltd. : suppliers of this life saving gas? (6)
15 Fasten with U-shaped metal pins (6)
16 Make an offer (3)
18 Inert, hibernating (7)
22 Stirred violently? (8)
23 Linear measure (4)
24 ___ a play : performed a play in front of an audience? (6)
25 Mistreated (6)

DOWN

1 Hexagonal wax structure (9)
2 Ecstatic, rapturous or thrilled (9)
3 Postpone (5)
4 Walk pompously (5)
5 Simple (4)
6 Belief system (5)
10 Avarice (5)
11 A prefix meaning "within" (5)
12 Recurrent notes or numbers (9)
13 Spoiled the beauty or brightness (9)
17 Metal bar (5)
19 ___ for : chose as an alternative? (5)
20 Mass ___ : press, radio or television? (5)
21 The sort of beetle that looks as if it has antlers (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS S

D QUDPT EVQYFZQQ FZJZH TYZBPQ D QVFFT BYIZ.

Linemaro

My doctor told me I needed some vitamin U

Mindchow

Sometimes the best helping hand you can give is a good firm push

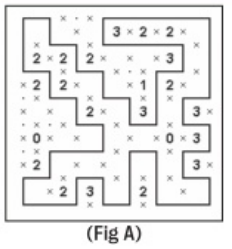
Joke of the day

What is the most important thing to learn in Chemistry? Never lick the spoon

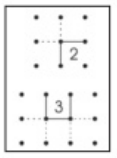
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

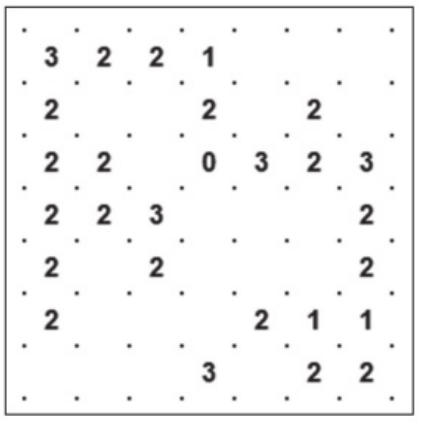


(Fig B) Not Allowed

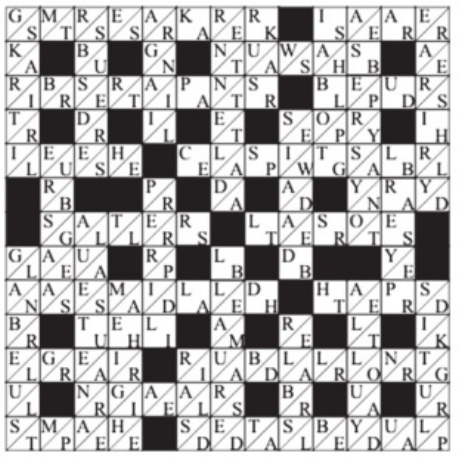
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



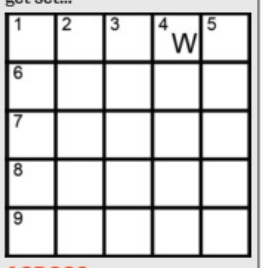
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

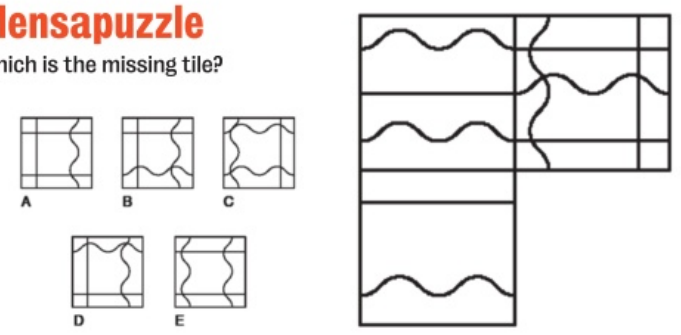
1 Cawls; 6 Ryder;
7 On ani; 8 Tents;
9 So Hug

DOWN

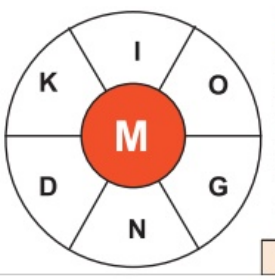
1 Scars; 2 Olent;
3 A due I; 4 Grown;
5 Thy Sn

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing tile?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8			2		1	
			9				3	
9				4	8		7	
		6		1			9	
5	4						6	2
	3			6		8		
	9		7	8				1
	2				9			
	1		4			3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

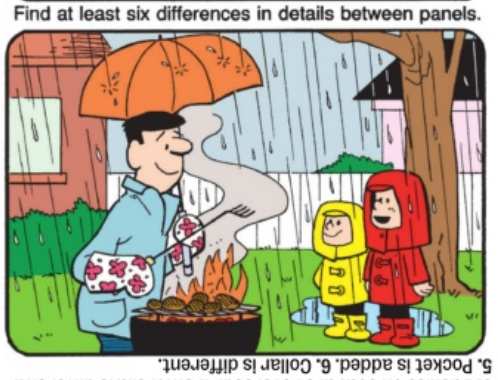
Easy = 4
4 8 9 9

Medium = 11
3 4 5 6

Hard = 54
1 7 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fork is different. 2. Oven mitt is longer. 3. Buckles on coat are reversed. 4. Umbrella is different. 5. Pocket is added. 6. Collar is different.

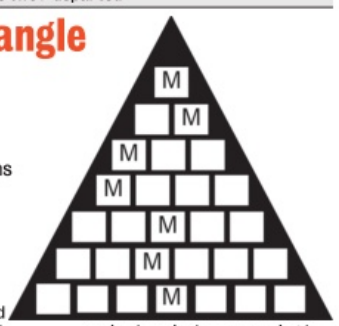
Riddler

For each of the following, use the clue words to help you find three words that are linked to each other through their last two letters and first two letters of the subsequent word. The 1st word's last two letters are the same as the first two letters of the 2nd word, and the 2nd word's last two letters are the same as the first two letters of the 3rd word. Example: exchange / exit / come back
Answer: traDE / DEparturE / REturn

1. less than less / sneaking around / process mentally
2. purplish red / it takes two / departed

Alpha triangle

1 One thousand
2 Early hrs.
3 Staff
4 Principal
5 Street urchin
6 Supplying weapons
7 Injuring



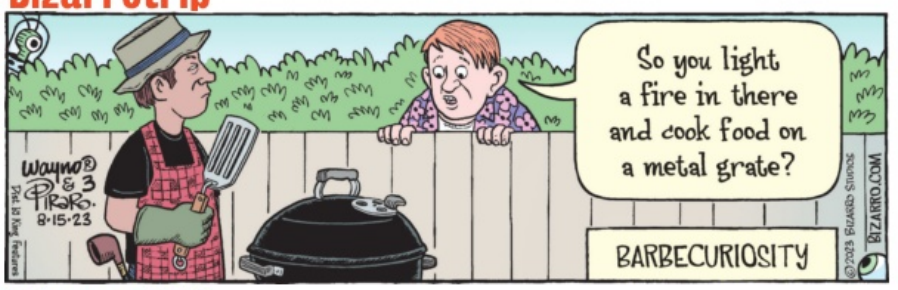
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE DANCE WITH BRENT?
I'M A FREE AGENT! I DON'T WANNA BE TIED DOWN!
YOU'RE A STRONG WHITE WOMAN WHO DON'T NEED NO MAN!
THAT'S RIGHT!

Crankshaft

I WANT YOU TO USE THIS LOTION I'M PRESCRIBING EVERY DAY...
THEN BEGIN USING IT SPORADICALLY...
UNTIL ONE DAY YOU SPOT IT IN THE BACK OF YOUR MEDICINE CABINET AND CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHY IT'S THERE.

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may find it easier to complete difficult tasks, which can boost your confidence. Your past investments may yield good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics, as they may waste your precious time.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may not be a good day. You might feel unhappy and dissatisfied with your current situation. It is advised to remain patient and not make hasty decisions. Additionally, take care of your parents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may make decisions quickly that can benefit your day-to-day life. You might also make some challenging decisions with the help of your colleagues, leading to potential success. Property-related disputes among siblings may be resolved, and you could expect some short trips.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness as your loose talking may affect those around you. Be mindful of spending your hard-earned money on worthless items. Your mind may be working quickly, but it's recommended to make important decisions with patience.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and the disappointments of the past couple of days may turn into happiness. You can enjoy both your professional and personal life, and your network may assist in completing postponed projects. You might also initiate a new venture with the help of your siblings, with your network supporting you every step of the way.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy at work, and your focus on your goals may be tested. Patience will be your ally in achieving your goals on time. Dedication to your work may result in rewards. You may also consider making investments in fixed assets.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, destiny may favour your success, making it easier to achieve your goals. You may visit a religious place to find peace of mind or spend time earning intellectual or occult knowledge. Students may perform well, and singles may find a suitable match. Love birds may make important decisions regarding marriage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work, and your strong network can help you successfully implement your plans. Your wisdom may lead to profits from past investments. Enjoy romantic moments with your spouse to enhance harmony in your domestic life, while lovebirds savour their happy moments.

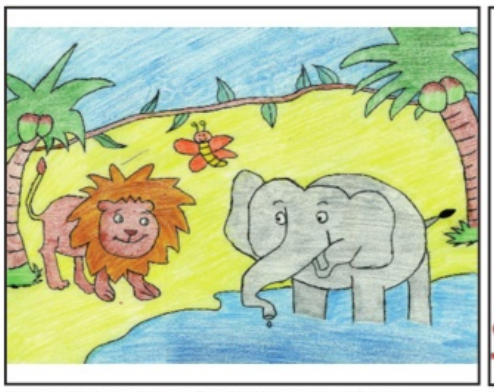
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, bringing happiness and putting last week's challenges behind you. You may see the fruits of your hard work and, with the help of your subordinates, initiate postponed tasks. Expect gains in your business to boost your finances.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull and experience some health issues. It is advised to postpone business investments and avoid starting new ventures, as you may face losses. Your gains may turn into losses.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you will be happy and at peace. Your focus on your goals will be strong, and you may have romantic moments with your spouse, strengthening your bond. You will also be busy with domestic issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel more enthusiastic, and your performance at work may be strong, improving your relationship with your seniors. You might receive new responsibilities and good news in legal matters. Your opponents and hidden enemies will be under control.

KIDZONE



Madeeha Matheen, 9 Years, Tawakkal International School

Rennah Reeza, 9 Years, St. Francis School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(4?) * (√9/16) – (5?2) + 9=
8 * 3/4 – 30 + 9 =
24/4 – 30 + 9 =
6 – 30 + 9 =
[– 24 + 9 = – 15]

BULL'S EYE
KINGDOM, mind, mink, monk

QUOTE UNCODE
A shady business never yields a sunny life.

FAST FIVE

C	L	A	W	S
R	E	D	R	Y
A	N	I	O	N
S	T	E	N	T
S	O	U	G	H

STRIKE OUT

S	M	E	E	■	S	E	A	L	E	D	U	P	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	T	R	E	A	K	E	R	■	S	A	V	A	R	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
K	U	■	N	■	W	A	■	A	B	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	B	E	R	I	A	N	S	■	B	E	D	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	■	R	■	L	■	E	■	S	O	Y	■	H	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
L	U	S	H	■	C	A	P	I	T	A	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	R	■	P	■	D	■	D	■	N	A	Y	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	A	T	E	S	■	T	E	S	T	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
L	E	U	■	R	■	B	■	D	■	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	S	S	A	I	L	E	D	■	H	A	R	D	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
L	I	■	L	M	■	E	■	L	■	I	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	■	T	E	L	■	E	■	L	■	I	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	G	E	R	■	R	U	B	A	L	O	N	G	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
L	■	R	I	A	L	S	■	R	■	U	■	U	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	N	■	I	■	O	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	■	T	■	E	■	N	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	O	■	U	■	G	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUICK

S	T	A	G	E	D	■	A	B	U	S	E	D	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	O	O	K	E	D	■	S	P	E	E	C	H	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	■	V	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	R	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	O	■	E	S	■	F	O	R	E	S	T	E	R	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	G	I	■	T	A	T	E	D	■	I	N	C	H	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	■	S	■	P	■	E	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	I	D	■	D	O	R	M	A	N	T	■	I	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	■	E	■	E	■	R	■	E	■	M	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	X	Y	G	E	N	■	S	T	A	P	L	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	■	O	■	R	■	N	■	E	■	L	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Y	■	J	A	G	R	I	T	I	■	R	O	B	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	R	■	U	■	E	■	Y	■	D	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	T	A	G	E	D	■	A	B	U	S	E	D	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
D: all lines are continued, however, wavy lines become straight and vice versa

RIDDLER
1. least / stealth / think,
2. magenta / tango / gone

SUDOKU

3	7	8	6	5	2	9	1	4
9	5	1	3	4	8	2	7	6
4	6	2	9	7	1	5	3	8
8	2	4	1	3	9	6	5	7
6	9	3	7	8	5	4	2	1
1	3	9	2	6	7	8	4	5
5	4	7	8	9	3	1	6	2
2	8	6	5	1	4	7	9	3
7	1	5	4	2	6	3	8	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Man, Main, Gamin, Armring, Harming.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 8 – 9 – 4 = 4
5 × 4 – 3 – 6 = 11
Medium
6 × 8 – 1 + 7 = 54
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 16, Issue No 23 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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